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44. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said receiving is from a transmission selected from the group consisting of a digital transmission, a cable transmission, a satellite transmission, and a phone communication; [and] wherein said storing is to a storage selected from the group consisting of an optical disc, a magnetic disk, a memory chip, and a memory module; and wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of detail.

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45. (As originally presented) The apparatus of claim 43, further comprising communicating means for communicating a video program preference to a remote video program provider; wherein said receiving comprises a downloading of said video program, said user interface, and said data, from said remote video program provider; and wherein said storing is to an optical disc.

46. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of detail; and wherein a descriptor, responsive to a level of detail, is assigned to each of the parallel video segments.

47. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of sex; and wherein said content preference is responsive to an MPAA rating.

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48. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of explicitness in [a] at least one of a plurality of video content categories; and wherein said content preference is responsive to a level of explicitness with respect to each of said plurality of video content categories.

49. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 43, wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of explicitness in [a] at least one of a plurality of video content categories; wherein said content preference is responsive to a level of explicitness with respect to each of said plurality of video content categories; and

wherein said content preference, specific to said user and as it relates to said video program, is internally saved.

50. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving (1) a video program including within a first set of parallel video segments that provide for at least two versions of a scene, of said video program, with different levels of explicitness in a video content category relating to violence, and including within a second set of parallel video segments that provide for at least two versions of another scene, of said video program, with different levels of explicitness in a video content category relating to sex, each parallel video segment comprising a sequence of video frames, (2) a user interface, particular to said video program, for a user of said video program to establish a content preference, and (3) data, not created by said user of said video program, directly defining a plurality of video segments within said video program;

storage means for storing said video program, said user interface, and said data;

processing means for enabling said user of said video program to establish a content preference by utilizing said user interface, and for selecting, for said user, video segments from within said video program by applying said content preference to said data; and

random accessing and buffering means for playing, without requiring an alternate source of video, the selected video segments as a seamless version of, from within, and less in length than the length of, said video program, said playing comprising seamlessly skipping over a non-selected parallel video segment included within said video program.

51. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 50, further comprising communicating means for communicating a video program preference to a remote video program provider; wherein said receiving is from a transmission selected from the group consisting of a digital transmission, a cable transmission, a satellite transmission, and a phone communication; and wherein said storing is to a storage selected from the group consisting of an optical disc, a magnetic disk, a memory chip, and a memory module.

52. (As initially presented) The apparatus of claim 50, further comprising communicating means for communicating a video program preference to a remote video program provider;

wherein said receiving comprises a downloading of said video program, said user interface, and said data, from said remote video program provider; and wherein said storing is to an optical disc.

53. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said content preference is responsive to an MPAA rating; and wherein said storing is to a magnetic disk.

54. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said content preference is responsive to a level of explicitness with respect to said video content category relating to violence and to a level of explicitness with respect to said video content category relating to sex.

55. (As initially presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein said content preference is responsive to a level of explicitness with respect to said video content category relating to violence, a level of explicitness with respect to said video content category relating to sex, and a level of detail; and wherein said content preference, specific to said user and as it relates to said video program, is internally saved.

56. (Amended) A method comprising the steps of:
receiving (1) a video program including within a set of parallel video segments that provide for at least two versions of a scene of said video program, each parallel video segment comprising a sequence of video frames, (2) a user interface, particular to said video program, for a user of said video program to establish a content preference, and (3) data, not created by said user of said video program, directly defining a plurality of video segments within said video program;

storing said video program, said user interface, and said data;

enabling said user of said video program to establish a content preference by utilizing said user interface;

selecting, for said user, video segments from within said video program by applying said content preference to said data; and

playing, by means of a random accessing and a buffering, and without requiring an alternate source of video, the selected video segments as a seamless version of, from within, and

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less in length than the length of, said video program, said playing comprising seamlessly skipping over a non-selected parallel video segment included within said video program.

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57. (Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein said receiving is from a transmission selected from the group consisting of a digital transmission, a cable transmission, a satellite transmission, and a phone communication; [and] wherein said storing is to a storage selected from the group consisting of an optical disc, a magnetic disk, a memory chip, and a memory module; and wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of detail in a video content category relating to sex.

58. (Amended) The method of claim 56, further comprising communicating means for communicating a video program preference to a remote video program provider; wherein said receiving is from [a] said remote video program provider; and wherein said storing is to an optical disc.

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59. (Amended) The method of claim 56, further comprising communicating a video program preference to a remote video program provider; wherein said receiving comprises a downloading of said video program, said user interface, and said data, from said remote video program provider; and wherein said storing is to [an optical disc] a magnetic disk.

60. (Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of detail; and wherein a descriptor, responsive to a level of detail, is assigned to each of the parallel video segments.

61. (Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of sex; and wherein said content preference is responsive to an MPAA rating.

62. (Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of violence; wherein another set of parallel video segments, included within said video program, provide for at least two

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versions of another scene, of said video program, with different levels of sex; and wherein said content preference is responsive to a level of explicitness with respect to a video content category relating to violence and to a level of explicitness with respect to a video content category relating to sex.

63. (Newly added) An apparatus comprising:

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receiving means for receiving (1) a video program including within a set of parallel video segments that provide for at least two versions of a scene of said video program, each parallel video segment comprising a sequence of video frames, (2) a user interface, particular to said video program, for a user of said video program to establish a content preference, (3) data, not created by said user of said video program, directly defining a plurality of video segments within said video program, and (4) a segment code for preventing a control function from interfering with a playing of a video segment;

storage means for storing said video program, said user interface, said data, and said segment code;

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processing means for preventing, responsive to the segment code, a control function of the apparatus from interfering with a playing of at least one video segment; enabling said user of said video program to establish a content preference by utilizing said user interface; and selecting, for said user, video segments from within said video program by applying said content preference to said data; and

random accessing and buffering means for playing, without requiring an alternate source of video, the selected video segments as a seamless version of, from within, and less in length than the length of, said video program, said playing comprising seamlessly skipping over a non-selected parallel video segment included within said video program.

64. (Newly added) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein said control function is a fast-forward function.

65. (Newly added) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of detail; wherein a descriptor, responsive to a level of detail, is assigned to each of the parallel video segments; and

wherein said control function is a fast-forward function.

66. (Newly added) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of explicitness in at least one of a plurality of video content categories; wherein said content preference is responsive to a level of explicitness with respect to each of said plurality of video content categories; and wherein said control function is a fast-forward function.

67. (Newly added) A method comprising the steps of:

receiving (1) a video program including within a set of parallel video segments that provide for at least two versions of a scene of said video program, each parallel video segment comprising a sequence of video frames, (2) a user interface, particular to said video program, for a user of said video program to establish a content preference, (3) data, not created by said user of said video program, directly defining a plurality of video segments within said video program, and (4) a segment code for preventing a control function from interfering with a playing of a video segment;

storing said video program, said user interface, said data, and said segment code;

preventing, responsive to the segment code, a control function of the apparatus from interfering with a playing of at least one video segment;

enabling said user of said video program to establish a content preference by utilizing said user interface;

selecting, for said user, video segments from within said video program by applying said content preference to said data; and

playing, without requiring an alternate source of video, the selected video segments as a seamless version of, from within, and less in length than the length of, said video program, said playing comprising seamlessly skipping over a non-selected parallel video segment included within said video program.

68. (Newly added) The method of claim 67, wherein said control function is a segment skip function.

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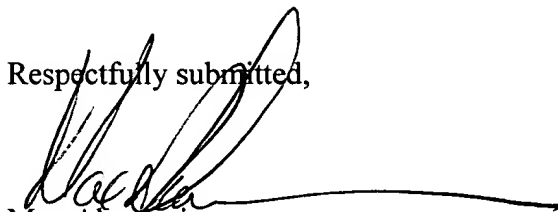
69. (Newly added) The method of claim 67, wherein said set of parallel video segments provide for at least two versions of said scene with different levels of violence; wherein another set of parallel video segments, included within said video, provide for at least two versions of another scene, of said video program, with different levels of sex; wherein said content preference is responsive to a level of explicitness with respect to a video content category relating to violence and with respect to a video content category relating to sex; and wherein said control function is a segment skip function. --

In the Continuing Data:

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This application is a divisional and not a continuation-in-part of prior application 07/832,335. Please amend the continuing data accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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